

# OTF Investment Summary Report 2024/2025 Capital Cycle

Prepared for the Board of Directors,  
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2024-2025 Capital Cycle (March 6, 2024 deadline)  
Ontario Trillium Foundation Community Investments

# OTF Investment Summary Report 2024/2025 Capital Cycle

## Introduction

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Safe, accessible and welcoming spaces to connect, be active, learn, and grow are vital to healthy and vibrant communities. By investing in infrastructure and equipment, organizations can ensure they have appropriate spaces to deliver high quality programming to the communities they serve. OTF's Capital stream is designed to fund projects that update buildings, enhance spaces, and purchase both fixed and non-fixed equipment to ensure that communities in Ontario have a safe and welcoming place to access the services they need. OTF's Capital stream is available to organizations that deliver programs or services in any one of OTF's six Funding Priorities.

The Capital funding stream awards grants between \$10,000 and \$200,000 to eligible organizations for up to one year to facilitate purchasing equipment, completing repairs, renovations and/or retrofits, or enhancing an outdoor structure or space. Investments support projects that:

- Maintain or increase access to a program or service
- Extend the life of a facility or space
- Improve a facility or space to make it more accessible

This report will provide an overview of the Capital funding round for the 2024/2025 fiscal year.

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## Schedule 1: Executive Summary

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### 1.1 Cycle highlights:

- This round, **\$28.2M is available to be disbursed**. This is an almost 11M decrease from the previous Capital round, where \$38.9M was available for disbursement. NOTE: Allocations to each granting stream were set by the Grant Review Teams for each catchment to meet their communities' needs within Board approved targets.
- **1503 applications** were received this cycle, **requesting \$168.5M**. This is a 13% increase in the amount of dollars requested from the previous round of Capital which had \$149.2M in requested funds from 1600 applications.
- The Grant Review Teams **reviewed 585 applications** and are **recommending 291 applications for approval**. This is 35% decrease in the number of grants recommended for approval from the previous round of Capital, in which 448 projects were recommended for approval. **The approval rate for this round is 19%** compared to 28% the previous round, likely due to the smaller budget available for disbursement.
- This round saw a **higher percentage of organizations deemed ineligible to move forward at the organization assessment stage** then the previous two rounds. 34% of organizations were denied at the organization assessment stage, compared to 23% the previous round.
- **764 applications were denied due to project or organization ineligibility**. After scoring, **449 weak applications did not move forward likely due to general feasibility**.
- The **overall demand rate is \$5.97** requested for every dollar recommended for approval representing an 55% increase in the demand rate from the previous Capital round, which had a demand rate of \$3.85. This round, the **Muskoka, Nipissing, Parry Sound & Timiskaming (MNPST) catchment had the highest demand rate** at \$15.74, up from \$6.38 in the previous round. **Every catchment saw an increase in demand**, with the Champlain and ACMS catchments seeing particularly sharp increases. Champlain's demand rose to \$8.02 from \$4.12 the previous round, while ACMS rose to \$11.62 from \$7.11 the previous round.
- This round saw a **decrease in the number of applications** from organizations that have a **revenue of less than \$100,000** a year, down from 287 applications the previous round to 165 applications this round. In addition, the number of grants awarded to these organizations fell from 68 the previous round to 32 this round. In turn, the amount requested from these organizations decreased to \$13.3M, down from \$21.4M, while the amount recommended for approval also fell to \$1.7M, down from \$4.4M.
- **85% of Grant Review Team volunteers** completed all of their assigned scoring activities for this round of Capital, which continues to indicate a high level of engagement. This round saw a record number of GRT members on vacation and unable to complete Capital scoring.

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## 1.2 Noteworthy Grants

Below, we highlight some of the initiatives that are being recommended:

### **Repairing a key facility for the Francophone community in Kapuskasing**

Centre régional de Loisirs culturels inc. will use a \$200,000 Capital grant over 6 months to repair the roof of their facility and change two furnaces, allowing them to extend the life of this important facility for Francophones in the rural community of Kapuskasing and surrounding area.

### **Teaching youth with disabilities about the environment by making equipment more accessible in Cornwall**

With a grant of \$14,800, the St. Lawrence River Institute of Environmental Science aims to support youth, particularly those with disabilities, in the conservation and restoration of the environment. The institute focuses on environmental and freshwater research, education, and outreach. Due to increased demand for their programs and services, their focus is now on maintaining or increasing access to the programs and services offered. The grant will allow the organization to purchase an outdoor shed, enhance their gazebo, install a wheelchair ramp, and purchase accessible outdoor furniture which will enable the organization to increase access to their programs and services, as well as to support participation in the conservation and restoration of the environment.

### **Improving curling facilities for a rural community in Beaverton**

A grant of \$48,000 over one year to replace aging dehumidifiers will help to ensure that the Beaverton Curling Club can continue to provide quality curling programs for seniors, adults, and youth in this rural community. Reduced condensation and improved ice surface will support the active participation of curlers in seven adult leagues, child/youth programs, the learn-to-curl program, and up to seven bonspiels per season, impacting 1,000 people per year.

### **Building upgrades for a Newcomers centre in Windsor**

The New Canadians' Centre of Excellence Inc assists in integrating and welcoming Newcomers of all ages to Canada, specifically in their new community of Windsor-Essex . A \$176,700 Capital grant for a new HVAC unit will provide heat and cooling for program spaces such as the Language Instructions to Canada (LINC) classrooms, Childcare rooms, Settlement Services and Employments Services, serving 6,000 people per year.

### **Creating a new, modern, safe space for disadvantaged Francophone youth in St. Catharines**

The Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre Niagara will create a new modern play space and multi-purpose activity room in St. Catharines, where children who have experienced trauma, abuse or neglect can heal, express themselves, and rebuild trust. A \$45,000 Capital grant to complete HVAC, lighting and electrical upgrades will contribute to creating a safe space for positive experiences of

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empowerment and resilience for 550 young clients through post-interview decompression play, after-school programs, day camps, and group therapy.

## **Providing housing support to Indigenous women and children experiencing violence or homelessness in London**

A \$57,700 grant over 6 months will allow Atlohsa Family Healing Services to renovate and help furnish Yakhiya'take'nhas Yukwahwatsilay^tu (Yakhiya for short), an 11-unit apartment building to provide transitional housing for Indigenous women and their dependent children who are experiencing or at risk of violence or homelessness. The funds will allow them to install flooring in the common area, replace broken windows, repair damaged drywall as well as repairs to the water heater and boiler systems. The project will also provide new furniture for the 11 units to maximize the number of Indigenous women and children served.

## **1.3 Sign-Offs**

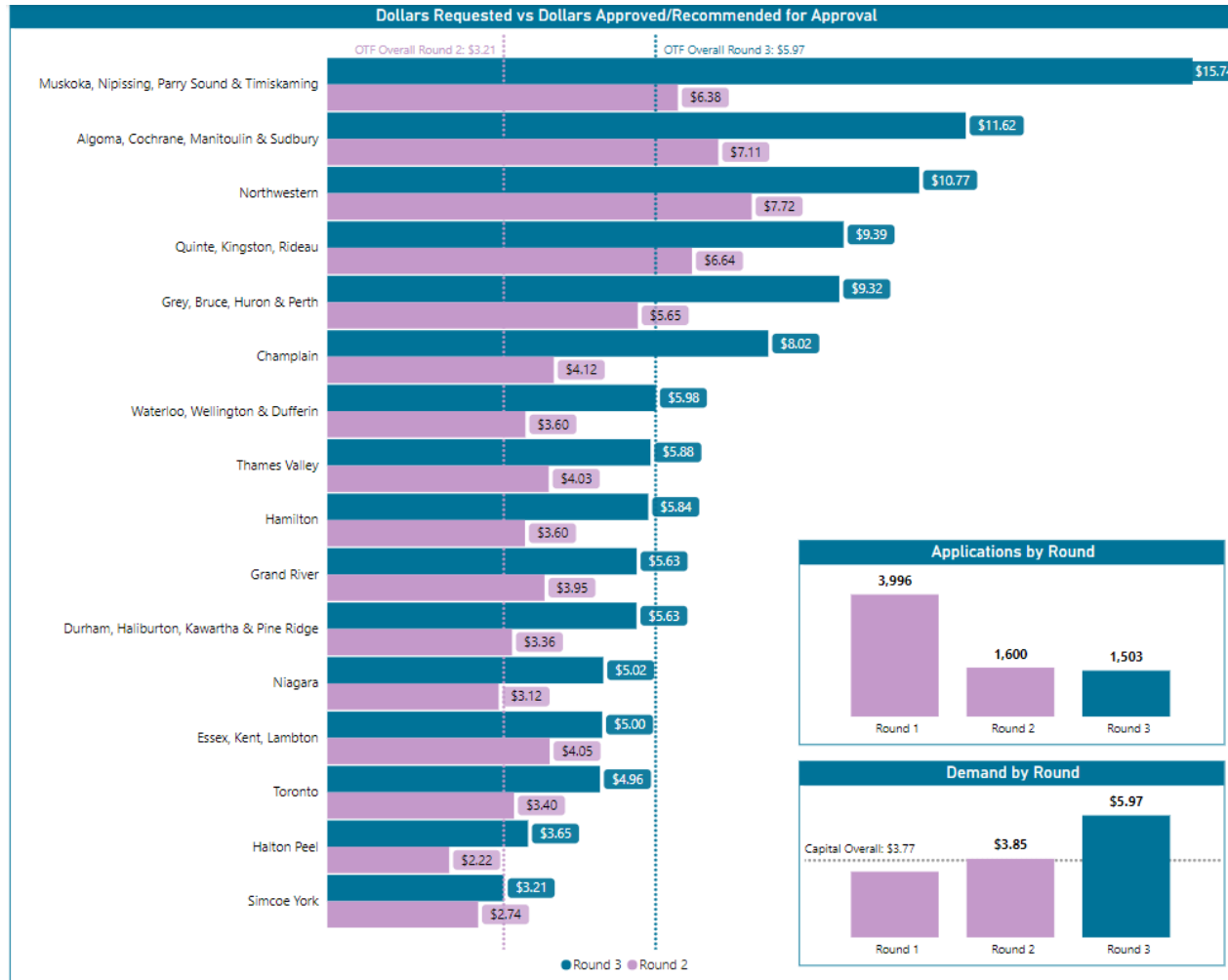
Sign-Off from Chairs: Following each GRT meeting the Chair or Acting Chair signed off on the recommendations of their GRT.

Compliance with OTF Policy: During and following the application assessment period and the GRT meeting period, the Vice-President, Granting has reviewed granting policy compliance, compliance with objectives of the funding stream, and granting process compliance with Regional Directors. The VP, Granting and CEO of OTF each also attended three GRT meetings. The VP, Granting confirms that all recommended grants are within the granting policies, stream expectations and grant-making processes of the Foundation. As well, the VP, Granting confirms that to date no new information has surfaced that would suggest the need to alter any of the current recommendations made by the 16 GRTs

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## Schedule 2: Supporting Figures

### 2.1 Demand Overview



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## 2.2 Grant Outcomes

